Hon,ble Supreme Court in its order dated 28.2.2007 on a Public Interest Litigation, has asked the Central Government to look into the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the period between 1993 to 2000 and give its response as to what remedial measures be taken in the light of the observations of CAG, and the delays in execution, operation & maintenance. The Supreme Court has also directed the Central Government & State Governments of U.P., West Bengal, Bihar, Uttaranchal & Jharkhand to file detailed affidavits as to manner in which the funds were spent under the Plan alongwith Utilization Certificates from the respective agencies in the light of the CAG Report.

A total of Rs. 735.11 crore as on 31.3.07 has been released to different States so far for implementation of schemes for the river Ganga under both the phases of Ganga Action Plan.

Shrinking of Gangotri Glacier

†2798. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gangotri glacier is Shrinking approximately 17.15 metres every year due to changes in climatic conditions and increase in temperature as a result of emission of green house gases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken or propose to take any step to stop emission of green house gases with the co-operation of developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The studies carried out by Department of Science & Technology funded project on Gangotri Glacier revealed that Gangotri Glacier is receding at the rate of 17.15 metre/year during the period 1971-2004. Another study estimated a retreat of 12.10 M during the year 2004-05. As per the record of Geological survey of India, Gangotri Glacier has receded at the rate of 18.80 metres per year during the period 1935-1996.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Government of India is a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that commits the Annex-I Parties (developed countries) to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases to an average of approximately 5.2% below 1990 levels over the period 2008-2012. India is participating under the Clean Development Mechanism which is one of the three flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol. Under the clean Development Mechanism, a developed country can take up greenhouse gas reduction project activities in a developing country. India has so far accorded Host Country Approval to 599 projects and 220 of them have already been registered with the CDM Executive Board.

Environmental pollution in Chhattisgarh

†2799. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts of the Chhattisgarh where excessive environmental pollution has been found;

(b) the names of the districts out of them where the Central Environmental Pollution Control Board has conducted study regarding environmental pollution and whether it has submitted its report to the State Government; and

(c) the details fo suggestions given to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The districts of Raipur and Korba in Chhattisgarh have been identified as districts with environmental pollution by the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB).

(b) and (c) Based on the survey undertaken by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) concerned, Korba District was identified as one of the critically polluted areas. As a result of the Action Plan prepared jointly by CPCB and SPCB thereof, several measures, including the ones for fly ash utilization have been initiated *vide* notification dated 14.09.1999. The implementation of the measures is monitored by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.